

THE PACIFIC COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER

WALTER G. SMITH

EDITOR

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FEBRUARY 7

RESTORATION OF FINLAND.

Long before the Oriental war commenced, the Advertiser argued that one of its results would be the comparative enfranchisement of the Russian people. In the midst of many excesses, this work has been proceeding for months and there is a fair prospect for the institution of a measure of constitutional government in the Russian empire.

The atrocious outrage of the partition and dismemberment of the ancient Kingdom of Poland in 1772 and 1778, ratified by the treaty of Vienna in 1814, is probably beyond complete practical rectification. But in Russian Poland, as it now exists, some degree of atonement has been exacted. In Finland, however, "the whirligig of time" has worked out its revenge in very short and perfect order, and two millions of industrious, educated and progressive people have been restored to their constitutional rights.

Finland is accustomed to self-government and possessed of an advanced civilization, in which the religious sentiment is predominant. As far back as 1157 she was connected with Sweden but administered her own laws. In one respect she is contemporary with this Republic, for between 1772 and 1789 her constitution was perfected, which embraced the two elements of religious toleration and self-taxation. In 1809, she was annexed to Russia as a Grand Duchy, under the sworn pledge by Alexander I. that, within her limits, "religion, laws, rights and privileges" should remain "unchanged in their full strength." This oath was taken by each succeeding Czar, and by the present Czar, at the deathbed of his father, November 6, 1884. It was repeatedly confirmed by official rules or statutes. By section 40 of one of them, it was enacted that "the ruler," that is the Czar, "may not create new laws, nor abolish any old law, without the consent of the Diet," which, by another section, was required to be unanimous. By still another section, it was declared that, except as above stated, the constitution of Finland should "remain unchangeable" and, on April 3, 1869, Alexander II. pronounced these rules or statutes to be "irrevocable."

On February 15, 1899, the present Czar deliberately broke his oath and sought to destroy the autonomy of Finland by placing its Diet under the full control of the Russian Council of State. He refused to entertain a vigorous and touching protest against the usurpation, signed by 527,009 Finns and taken to St. Petersburg by 500 deputies, whom he declined even to receive. At the very time when the First Congress at The Hague, which he had suggested, was in session, he adopted the most tyrannical methods of enforcing his autocratic ukase, exiled passively resisting Finns by the thousand, and obliterated the liberty of the Finnish press. As an example of press censorship, it may be recalled that, in Helsingfors, a large and ancient city, now modernized and beautiful and possessing one of the finest universities in Europe, an editor adopted the plan of printing literal extracts from the Bible on the sacredness of oaths and the responsibility of monarchs. "Who composed them?" asked the censor, "God," was the reply. "Off you rascal—tell them this is shameful," was the decision.

The wrongs of Finland, involving more perjury and treachery than Muscovite falsehoods and breaches of faith in Manchuria, have been redressed. The constitution has been restored and the foundations of an advanced civilization replaced. This is among the greatest results of the Oriental war. If nothing more had been accomplished, by this fact alone the world of progress would have received ample compensation for all the losses and misery the conflict produced. The Japanese builded better than they knew.

In respect to invitations to Europeans, capable of citizenship, to migrate to Hawaii, the Finns should certainly be considered. There are several thousands in California, who have proved a most valuable accession to the population of that advancing state. They are intelligent, educated, thrifty, well-trained in agriculture, and readily adapt themselves to new conditions. They are far closer to Americanism than the northern Italians. It is very likely that they could be easily induced to investigate Hawaiian opportunities, and to avail themselves of such offers as have been recently accepted by Molokans. Next to American farmers, they would be among the best permanent settlers, and they assuredly would aid in raising our intellectual and moral standards.

GRAND JURY AND GAMBLERS.

It is not surprising in view of the vigorous work of the Hutchins grand jury that the jury list which made such a reform body possible was sharply criticized by "the gang." Gamblers and those concerned in the protection of gamblers, looked with cold disfavor upon the long array of honorable names. All the professional jurors were missing; there was not a native roustabout in the lot; in the place of sports and saloon loungers were merchants, mechanics, professional men and captains of industry. Small wonder, therefore, that "the gang" strongly urged a return to the old system where the sheriff or the bailiff of the court was empowered to make up his own jury lists and give the boys a chance. For a grand jury that might be honest and sternly inquisitive "the gang" had no use.

The drastic efforts of the Hutchins grand jury to get at the truth of the gambling situation here, naturally follow the exposures by the Advertiser and the conclusion of the supervisors that the police, in their relation to gambling, are either indifferent, incompetent or corrupt. The previous grand jury, one drawn from the former lists, had the same evidence before it that this one is making such effective use of, but it did nothing. It had more pro-gamblers than good citizens in its personnel and it dismissed the whole matter of gambling with a silence which it hoped might be taken as contemptuous. Witnesses who were ready and eager to give it information were not called. The contrast between a grand jury of that sort and the one which is now pressing the law-breakers to the wall is that between a jury which betrayed the confidence reposed in it by the court and by good citizens and one which realizes what a grand jury is for and intends to live up to the highest standards of civic duty.

When a number of citizens want to enforce the liquor laws what do they do? Go first to the police? Not much. They collect evidence, compel arrests and get in behind the prosecution. When they want to enforce the gambling laws they go before the grand jury and ignore the police whom they feel assured would make a farce of the proceedings. The most successful raid made for years on the gamblers was the Advertiser's and the police blocked the way on every hand, even doing bodily harm to the witnesses for the people. One of the most important of public duties in Oahu county is to prepare for a complete reorganization of the police force. That ought to be made the leading issue of the next county election.

Every tourist should visit Tantalus. Hackmen do not recommend the trip because it taxes one horse too much. The elevation is about 2000 feet and the summit, besides giving the sightseer a spacious view, introduces him to the native forest growths of the island. Most of the down-town trees are exotic; those on Tantalus are indigenous with the exception of the forest of eucalyptus through which one passes to the upper levels and of a few fruit and ornamental trees in the yards of cottagers. The facilities which Trent & Co. are now affording to reach Tantalus quickly and cheaply are in the nature of a public service.

A printer's error by which the figure 5 was substituted for the figure 3 enabled the Star of yesterday to make its scheduled criticism of the Advertiser. The object sought was publicity for the Star through a reply in these columns. Now that our contemporary has obtained what it wanted we trust that its circulation will have so largely increased that it may have the grace to withdraw the horse-scaring squawk machine with which it is trying to drive away the crowds that go to Arleigh's bookstore to buy the other papers.

The Band will probably blow more tourists to Honolulu than many another promoting agency. The Band, indeed, is one of the institutions of the Islands that has become world famous, and justly. And so it is good advertising to send the musicians to the mainland.

The insurgent Republican Senators who refuse to vote for the Philippine bill are not being "admiral for their open fighting" to any great extent by the friends of the administration measure.

Having started the flow of money that he went after in this direction, Treasurer Campbell can come home in the consciousness that his work has been well done.

Ah Nin begins to make a noise like a football.

NEW BOOKS AT THE HONOLULU LIBRARY

SOCIAL SCIENCE, FOLKLORE AND LANGUAGE.

Haggard. The Poor and the Land; being a Report on the Salvation Army Colonies in the United States and at Hadleigh, England. 1905. Harris. Uncle Remus. 1905. Harris. Nights With Uncle Remus. Wright. The English Dialect Grammar; Comprising the Dialects of England, of the Shetland and Orkney Islands, etc. 1905. (Ref.)

SCIENCE, USEFUL AND FINE ARTS.

Doubleday. Stories of Inventors. 1904. Hampson. Radium explained. 1905. Metzenbaum. Radium. Radioactive Substances and Aluminum. 1905. Sharp. Point and Pillow Lace. 1905. LITERATURE, INCLUDING HUMOR. Aesop. Aesop's Fables; with an introduction by E. L. Cary. 1905. Aston. A History of Japanese Literature. 1899. (Literatures of the World.) Hyde. A Literary History of Ireland. 1901. (Library of Literary History.) Kelly. A History of Spanish Literature. 1904. (Literatures of the World.) Mahaffy. History of Classical Greek Literature. 4 pts. in 2 vols. 1903. Repplier. In Our Convent Days. 1905. Smith. The Story of Noah's Ark. 1905.

HISTORY AND TRAVEL.

Crawford. Salve Venetia; Gleanings from Venetian History. 2v. 1905. Dill. Roman Society from Nero to Marcus Aurelius. 1905. Duruy. General History of the World. 1898. Malcolm. Five Years in a Persian Town. 1905.

FICTION.

Arnim. The Princess Priscilla's Fortnight, by the Author of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden." 1905. Blundell. Wild Wheat; a Dorset Romance, by M. E. Francis. 1905. Harben. Pole Baker. 1905. Kester. The Fortunes of the Landrays. 1905. Martindell. The Diary of a Bride. 1905. Mighels. The Ultimate Passion. 1905. Montague. The Poet, Miss Kate and I. 1905. Satchell. The Toll of the Bush. 1905. Severy. The Mystery of June 13. 1905. Wells. Kipps; the Story of a Simple Soul. 1905. Wilson. The Boss of Little Arcady. 1905.

JUVENILE.

Ellis. Deerfoot on the Prairies. 1905. Ellis. Deerfoot in the Mountains. 1905. Ellis. Deerfoot on the Prairies. 1905.

FI KE'S WIDOW FACES POVERTY

BOSTON, January 28.—In a little two-story wooden house in South Boston, living on an income of less than \$6 a week, is Mrs. James Fiske, widow of Jim Fiske, the financier who was killed by Edward S. Stokes in 1871. She is forsaken by nearly all her old-time friends, and the large fortune at one time at her command has been dissipated. A large part of it was taken from her by those who were her husband's friends at the height of his career.

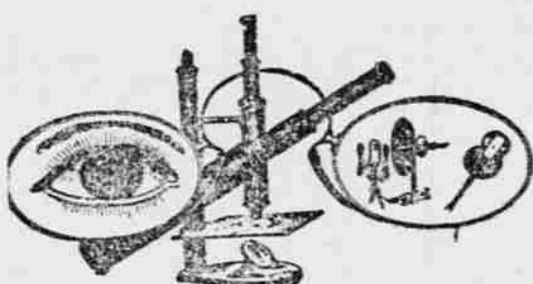
BISHOP HAMILTON'S TALK.

For a strong and realistic characterization of some of present day Mexico's greatness, especially that wonderful statesman, President Diaz of Mexico, hear Bishop Hamilton in his lecture in Odd Fellows' Hall, Tuesday evening, February 13, at 8 o'clock. The Bishop has been an honored guest at the palace of the President and has thus had ample opportunity to study at close range the habits and customs of one who commands the world's interest. Don't fail to hear it.

FOR HIM TOO.

A churchman tells about a time he was traveling through the country with an evangelist. At a village in Ohio a meeting was held at which an announcement was made that the proceeds of a collection to be taken would be turned over to a missionary fund.

In the audience was a man who was publicly known to oppose foreign missions, and who was also suspected of being an agnostic of the deepest dye. The churchman in the course of the collection passed this man the box. The other pushed it away with a sneer on his face. A sudden inspiration came to the churchman, and, thrusting the box under the fellow's nose, he said: "Here take some—it's for the heathen."—Philadelphia Ledger.



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